



Milford Improvement Team

~ 2013 TOWN REPORT ~

The Milford Improvement Team had a busy year of promoting economic development throughout Milford. Our goals:

- Promote Milford as a vibrant cultural, retail and entertainment destination in the region;
- Encourage a variety of local and independent businesses and activities that will both serve and employ residents;
- Preserve where feasible Milford's historic buildings and encourage sympathetic new development;
- Make Milford's gateway streetscapes attractive and engaging;
- Continue to maintain downtown Milford as the attractive, pedestrian-oriented center of our community;
- Foster cooperation among residents, business owners and property owners;

The Milford Improvement Team held several events throughout the year.

The 4th A Taste of Milford took place on May 30th and showcased Milford's restaurants to the region. This year's event featured 25 Milford eateries hosted by downtown businesses. The event brought 500 people to the Milford Oval to sample the food and browse the shops.

The Milford Great Pumpkin Festival celebrated its 24th anniversary on October 11-13 and was hugely successful. Approximately 33,000 people attended the festival over the three day period. Forty nonprofit and community based groups participated with fundraising or awareness activities that will benefit Milford and surrounding communities in innumerable ways – including scouting troops, 4-H clubs, Milford High School clubs, the Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club, Milford Middle School Enrichment, the Milford Community Athletic Association, the Rotary Club, and local churches. Altogether, these groups raised approximately \$65,000 for their programs and services that will be reinvested back into the community.

The Milford Improvement Team organized the Town Tree Lighting on December 7 and again provided the holiday décor on the Oval to include roping on the light poles. The official town Christmas tree was also lighted on the Oval and was donated by the Bonczar Family of Jennison Road.

Projects:

The Milford Improvement Team was awarded a Community Design Charrette by PLAN NH to focus on the Garden and Cottage Streets neighborhood. The Charrette



held two public visioning sessions on November 1 & 2 to discuss issues concerning traffic, walkability and redevelopment of underutilized space, as well as potential uses for the historic B&M train station building on Garden Street. The Charrette is a highly competitive application and awarded to only 2-3 communities per year. The Plan NH members donate their time and expertise to the Charrette, a value of approximately \$50,000 if the Town was to hire comparable services. To offset expenses of the Charrette, MIT was also awarded a \$5000 grant by the NH Charitable Foundation.

MIT donated \$1000 from Pumpkin Festival proceeds toward landscaping at the Milford Police Station to include perennial plantings around the flagpoles and parking area. MIT also donated the lighted granite sign for the new Milford Ambulance Facility.

MIT again coordinated seasonal plantings and decorations on the Oval, partnering with the Milford Garden Club to plant the Stone Bridge planters and the Bandstand. Local nurseries Butternut Farm, Souhegan Gardens and Trombly Farm donated plants for the planters and Northland Design donated their expertise to plantings on the Oval.

MIT strives to promote the Town of Milford to the region and State as a destination for starting or relocating a business, tourism, as well as encouraging residents to support their local businesses and organizations. MIT added an events calendar to our website that is open to other community organizations and regularly assists other community groups with promoting their events through our website, social media, press releases, and networking. Our goal is to be a clearing house of information for organizations within Milford, as well as a point of contact for media, or organizations within the greater Milford region.

The Executive Director served on the town's Economic Development Advisory Council and on the board of the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Tim Barr, a Milford resident, joined the MIT Board of Directors and the Board accepted the resignation of Melissa Deschenes with regret.

Respectfully submitted,

Volunteer hours* given to Milford Improvement Team events/activities:

2008 hours, \$44,457

Volunteer hours given to the Pumpkin Festival:

1102 hours, \$24,398

Sponsorship Investment to the Community
Due to MIT Activities:

\$50,310

Funds Raised for Other Community Groups at
MIT Events:

\$65,311

Grants Received by MIT for Community
Projects

\$60,500

Sources of Milford Improvement Team's
Income:

Pumpkin Festival 54% Town Government 17%
Events/Fundraisers 11% Grants 6% Private
Contributions 8% Other 4%

*Current Value of A Volunteer Hour \$22.14/hour

Alan Woolfson, President, Board of Directors
Tracy Hutchins, Executive Director

2013 Board Members: Tim Barr, Kathy Bauer, Trent Blalock, Michael Brisbois, Kate Chamberlin, Kent Chappell, Mark Constable, Melissa Deschenes, Rick Ganis, Karen Keating, Ed Killam, Robert Krey, Heather Leach, Janet Spalding, David Sturm, Alan Woolfson, and Chuck Worcester.

